Security Force. The Amendment Act has been framed for the speedy trial of persons accused of unlawful interference with civil aviation operations.

ITDC Financed Guest House at Rameshwaram

7717. SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRUTTINAN: Will the Minister of CIVI AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether an ITDC Financed guest house at Rameshwaram in Tamil Nadu is kept idle without any maintenance and administration;

(b) what is the total amount invested on this guest house and when the construction was completed; and

(c) what are the reasons to keep it unused and allowed to dilapidate?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) ITDC does not have or operate any unit/guest house at Rameshwaram in Tamil Nadu.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Vayudoot service in the North Eastern Region

7718 SHRI BHADRESWAR GOHAIN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Vayudoot service was initially meant for the North Eastern Region only;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for expanding the Vayudoot network to almost all parts of the country thereby crippling the service;

(c) whether Government are aware that Vayudoot service in this region is not operation at present;

(d) the name of the airport in the North East where Vayudoot service is operating at present and also the airports which have not yet seen a single aircraft since their inauguration; and

(e) whether any new scheme has been chalked out to improve air services in the North Eastern region?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Vayudoot Ltd. was initially set up in 1981 to connect inaccessible areas in the North East and other regions of the country.

(b) The network of Vayudoot operations was expanded in later years to make the company commercially viable.

(c) and (d). Vayudoot has been operating to the following stations in the North Eastern Region:—

1. Silchar (Assam)
2. Lilabari (Assam)
3. Dibrugarh (Assam)
4. Guwahati (Assam)
5. Agartala (Tripura)
6. Aizwal (Mizoram)
7. Ziro (Arunachal Pradesh)
8. Tezu (Arunachal Pradesh)
9. Dimapur (Nagaland)
10. Shilong (Meghalaya)

The operation of Vayudoot to some of the above and other stations had remained suspended for different periods owing to a variety of reasons.

(e) Under the existing guidelines, scheduled domestic airlines are required to deploy 10 per cent of the capacity deployed on Category I routes, on routes in Category II, which include North East region, Jammu and Kashmir, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep.